NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

Vol. XXVIII, No. 11 Bethesda, Maryland 20014 November 1973

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## NLM's On-Line Services

The past two years have witnessed a steady growth both in the number of institutions with access to NLM's on-line bibliographic retrieval services and in the number and variety of data bases forming these services. Over 200 universities, medical schools, and libraries now have terminals. The series of expanded on-line services* has been an outgrowth of the innovative AIM-TWX program begun in June 1970 (no longer available), by which citations to articles in *Abridged Index Medicus* were accessed via the Teletypewriter Exchange Network. Access is now available in every state and several foreign countries. The data bases now accessible to the user network are:

MEDLINE (MEDLARS On-Line). A data base of about 500,000 citations to articles from about 1,000 of the most significant journals indexed in *Index Medicus* for the past three years. This is approximately 60 percent of all *Index Medicus* citations for the same period. MEDLINE is updated monthly.

COMPFILE (Complement File). Contains the remaining 40 percent of *Index Medicus* citations for the past three years--those not included in MEDLINE. It also includes nursing and dental journals not covered in *Index Medicus*. Unlike MEDLINE and the other on-line services, citations retrieved in COMPFILE searches cannot be printed at the terminal on-line but are mailed from NLM within 24 hours.

SDILINE (Selective Dissemination of Information On-Line). Contains all citations to the forthcoming printed edition of the monthly *Index Medicus*, thereby making available some 18,000 citations to network participants almost one month prior to publication of *Index Medicus*. (The SDILINE data base also includes the nursing and dental journals referred to in COMPFILE.)

CATLINE (Catalog On-Line). A data base containing full bibliographic information for all materials cataloged at NLM and appearing in the *Current Catalog* since 1965. It contains about 130,000 citations and

* See McCarn, Davis B. and Leiter, Joseph. "On-Line Services in Medicine and Beyond," *Science*, Volume 181, July 27, 1973, pp. 318-324.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**
**Public Health Service**
**National Institutes of Health**

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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Published monthly by the Office of Public Information, National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, for health science libraries, the health professions, and news media.

8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014

*(On-Line Services, from Page 1)*

is updated twice a month. CATLINE may be used in support of a number of library activities, ranging from acquisitions and cataloging to reference and interlibrary loan.

SERLINE (Serials On-Line). A data base of serial records containing bibliographic and locator information for about 5,600 current biomedical serial titles. Using SERLINE, it is possible to identify which specific titles are held by any of 117 participating medical libraries. SERLINE is used primarily in support of the Regional Medical Library Network interlibrary loan activity. In addition, it can support cooperative acquisitions and reference functions within the Network.

In addition to the above, NLM provides access to an extensive file of citations and abstracts in the fields of toxicology and pharmacology as they relate to medicine, environmental pollution, and industrial or occupational health and safety. This service, TOXLINE (Toxicology Information On-Line), is operated for NLM under a contract with Informatics, Inc. TOXLINE (formerly called TOXICON) was described fully in the *NLM News*, May 1972, April 1973, and May-June 1973.

For further information on these on-line services (except TOXLINE) contact your Regional Medical Library. Information on access to TOXLINE is available from Informatics, Inc., Systems and Services Company, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

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*A delegation of physicians and medical scientists from the Peoples Republic of China visited NLM on November 7, 1973. Dr. C. P. Li, formerly on the staff of NIH, shows the collection of ginseng materials he recently brought back from a visit to the Peoples Republic of China, with members of the delegation and Miss Mary Corning and Dr. Peter Olch of the NLM staff looking on.*

## Work on PHS History Available

*A Profile of the United States Public Health Service, 1798-1948,* has been published by the National Library of Medicine. The book was written under a Public Health Service contract by Bess Furman Armstrong, well known newspaper writer and author. Mrs. Armstrong died shortly after completing her manuscript. Most of the original documents used in the preparation of the book can be found in NLM, the Library of Congress, or the National Archives. The author also interviewed leading figures of more recent PHS history.

In his foreword, NLM Director Martin M. Cummings, M.D., writes: "Those interested in the evolution of public health in our nation will find American medical history, earthy politics, social developments, and biographical vignettes in this work which enrich our understanding of the past and its influence on the present state of national health affairs."

*A Profile of the United States Public Health Service, 1798-1948,* may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Hard cover. Price $4.35 ($5.45 foreign). GPO Cat. No.: HE 20.3602:P96/798-948.

*Dr. Joseph Lovell, founder of the Army Medical Service and the Army Medical Library (forerunner of NLM). One of the almost 100 illustrations in the* Profile.

## NMAC Self-Instructional Unit Honored

The American Academy of Pediatrics has awarded to the self-learning unit titled "Introduction to Congenital Heart Disease" a gold certificate (top honors) during the AAP's 42nd annual meeting in Chicago, October 20-24th. The self-instructional unit (*News,* August 1973) was prepared by the Medical College of Georgia in cooperation with the National Medical Audiovisual Center and was cited for its originality and outstanding teaching value.

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ERRATUM Correct p. 8 of the *News* Supplement, Sept. 1973, to:

11. Pacific Southwest Region (AZ, CA, HI, NV)
Biomedical Library
The Center for Health Sciences
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Director RML Service: Louise Darling
Associate Dir.: Phyllis Mirsky
Tele: 213-825-1200
TWX: 910-342-6897

## History of Nursing Discussions Held

On September 26th, Dr. Faye G. Abdellah, Chief Nurse Officer of the U. S. P. H. S., and Dr. Anne Kibrick and Mrs. Margaret Walsh of the National League for Nursing, met with Dr. Peter D. Olch, Deputy Chief of NLM's History of Medicine Division, to discuss establishing a national repository of manuscript materials related to the development of the American nursing profession. The League is giving a collection of papers, microfilm, and photographs to the Library which will aid in documenting the early history of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. Drs. Abdellah, Kibrick, and Olch and Mrs. Walsh (pictured from left to right in the photo) will work together as an informal advisory group to identify other appropriate collections of manuscript materials of importance to the history of American nursing for possible inclusion in the collections of the National Library of Medicine.

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NEW LITERATURE SEARCHES: For single copies of the following bibliographies, send a self-addressed gummed label with number and title of the requested searches, to Literature Search Program, Reference Section, NLM.

L.S. No. 73-32 Hypertension: diagnosis, occurrence, and prevention (with emphasis on studies in the U.S.). Jan. 1970 through July 1973. 216 citations in English.

L.S. No. 73-33 Doping and sports. Jan. 1970 through August 1973. 46 citations.

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